

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicants' present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed May 28, 2008. Applicants have amended Claims 1-2, 5-8, 12-19, and 22-25. No new matter is introduced. Claims 10-11 and 20-21 were cancelled previously. Thus, Claims 1-9, 12-19, and 22-25 remain pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Interview Summary

Pursuant to Applicant Initiated Interview Request submitted August 6, 2008, a telephonic interview was conducted on August 26, 2008 between Examiner Duong and Attorneys Katharina W. Schuster and Robert L. Villhard. During the interview, Applicants agreed to amend at least independent claim 1 to clarify claim limitations. The substance of the amendments to the claims presented herein is believed to be consistent with that which was discussed during the interview. Examiner Duong indicated that, with claim amendments and a Request for Continued Examination, further consideration will be given and an updated search will be performed accordingly. Applicants appreciate the time and effort taken by Examiner Duong to review Applicants' present application and discuss the pending claims and the cited prior art.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 7, 12 and 22 were objected to for certain informalities. Claims 1, 7, 12 and 22 are amended herein to correct these informalities. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-9 and 12-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,496,824 (hereinafter "Wilf") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0236892 (hereinafter "Coulombe"). Claims 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,032,017 (hereinafter "Chow") in view of Wilf and Coulombe. Arguments pertaining to Wilf and Chow previously submitted in the Reply dated March 14, 2008 are hereby incorporated by reference. As a good faith attempt to expedite prosecution, independent Claim 1 is amended herein to recite:

A method of identifying a visitor at a network site comprising:
 receiving, at a website server, a network address of a visitor server computer and a first characteristic of a requesting visitor computer from the visitor server computer over a first network, wherein the visitor server computer is communicatively coupled to the requesting visitor computer over a second network and wherein the first characteristic of the requesting visitor computer is obtained, by the visitor server computer, from a header portion of a request for information sent from the requesting visitor computer to the visitor server computer over the second network;
 determining, at the website server, if a second characteristic of the requesting visitor computer is needed from the visitor server computer;
 requesting, by the website server, additional information regarding the second characteristic of the requesting visitor computer, wherein said requesting additional information comprises sending, by the website server, a request for the second characteristic of the requesting visitor computer to the visitor server computer over the first network;
 receiving, at the website server, the additional information regarding the second characteristic of the requesting visitor computer from the visitor server computer over the first network, wherein the second characteristic is obtained, by the visitor server computer, from the header portion of the request sent from the requesting visitor computer to the visitor server computer over the second network; and
 generating, at the website server, a first visitor identifier using the network address provided by the visitor server computer, the first characteristic of the requesting visitor computer and the second characteristic of the requesting visitor computer.

Independent Claims 12 and 22 are similarly amended herein.

As submitted during the aforementioned Examiner Interview on August 26, 2008, it seems that none of the cited references, Wilf, Coulombe, and Chow, and hence the combinations thereof teach or suggest at least the limitation of "generating, at the website server, a first visitor identifier using the network address provided by the visitor server computer, the first characteristic of the requesting visitor computer and the second characteristic of the requesting visitor computer." Thus, it is believed that Claims 1-9 and 12-19 recite subject matter not reached by the combination of Wilf and Coulombe under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and therefore should be allowed. Similarly, it is believed that Claims 22-25 recite subject matter not reached by the combination of Chow, Wilf, and Coulombe under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and therefore should be allowed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

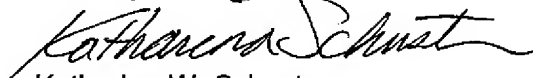
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include any acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of Claims 1-9, 12-19, and 22-25. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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